

## Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /059 W

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R 241011Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1790

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT TU

SUBJ: NEW LEADERSHIP AT TRT

1. THE RESIGNATION OF TURKISH RADIO AND TELEVISION (TRT) DIRECTOR GENERAL YALCINTAS ON NOVEMBER 14 AND THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO NOMINATE SABAN KARATAS AS HIS SUCCESSOR MAY LEAD TO A NEW ROUND OF CLASHES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP). THE NOMINATION OF KARATAS, WHO IS A PROFESSOR OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AT ATATURK UNIVERSITY IN ERZURUM, HAS AROUSED CONTROVERSY BECAUSE OF HIS ALLEGED STRONGLY CONSERVATIVE (ACCORDING TO RUMORS, HE IS A SUPPORTER OF NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY CHAIRMAN TURKES) POLITICAL BELIEFS.

2. RPP SECRETARY GENERAL EYUBOGLU TOLD REPORTERS RECENTLY THAT "LEGALLY NO ASSIGNMENT COULD BE MADE TO THE POSITION," SINCE THE COUNCIL OF STATE (DANISTAY) HAD RULED THAT FORMER DIRGEN ISMAIL CEM (THE PREDECESSOR OF YALCINTAS) HAD BEEN REMOVED ILLEGALLY. SEVERAL PAPERS REPORT DECEMBER 23 THAT RPP CHAIRMAN ECEVIT

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HAS SENT A LETTER TO PRESIDENT KORUTURK REQUESTING THAT HE

NOT SIGN ANY DECREE CONCERNING THE TRT DIRECTORSHIP.  
CEM TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE WOULD AGAIN APPEAL TO THE COUNCIL  
OF STATE IF THE KARATAS DECREE WAS SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT.

3. YALCINTAS, WHOSE APPOINTMENT LAST MAY, FOLLOWING  
PROTRACTED PARLIAMENTARY MANEUVERING TO REPEAL THE DECREE  
LAW AUTHORIZING HIS PREDECESSOR'S APPOINTMENT, LED TO A  
BITTER CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE RPP AND THE DEMIREL  
GOVERNMENT, RESIGNED AFTER A FAIRLY UNEVENTFUL TENURE  
AS DIRECTOR GENERAL. HE REPORTEDLY HAD COME UNDER ATTACK  
FROM THOSE IN THE NATIONAL FRONT COALITION WHO HAD ANTICIPATED  
THAT HE WOULD "WEED-OUT" ECEVIT SYMPATHIZERS AT TRT AND  
TRANSFORM TRT PROGRAMMING TO SUIT THEIR CONSERVATIVE TASTES.  
IN FACT, HE PROVED TO BE A BASICALLY IMPARTIAL ALBEIT  
ESSENTIALLY INEFFECTIVE DIRECTOR WHOSE DEPARTURE WILL BE  
LAMENTED MORE BY THOSE WHO OPPOSED HIS NOMINATION THAN BY  
THOSE WHO APPOINTED HIM. YALCINTAS CITED AS HIS REASON  
FOR RESIGNING THE COUNCIL OF STATE DECREE WHICH TURNED  
THE "LEGAL STATUS OF THE TRT DIRGEN INTO A SOURCE OF  
ARGUMENT."

4. PRESIDENT KORUTURK WAS DISCOMFITED BY THE  
GOVERNMENT-RPP TUSSLE LAST MAY AND BY THE DANISTAY  
DECREE WHICH CHALLENGED THE LEGALITY OF THE APPOINTMENT.  
KORUTURK'S PRINCIPAL EFORT OVER THE LAST YEAR HAS  
BEEN TO PROMOTE POLITICAL CONCILIATION, BUT, HOWEVER  
UNWILLINGLY, HE PROBABLY WILL NOW BE CAUGHT IN A  
GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION CROSSFIRE. HIS OPTIONS ARE:  
(1) PERSUADE THE GOVERNMENT TO WITHDRAW THE NOMINATION,  
(2) NOT SIGN THE DECREE, (3) PUBLICLY OPPOSE THE  
NOMINATION OR (4) SIGN THE DECREE.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** NOMINATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 DEC 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975ANKARA09384  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750447-0244  
**From:** ANKARA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751213/aaaaakur.tel  
**Line Count:** 93  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** MorefiRH  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <08 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** NEW LEADERSHIP AT TRT  
**TAGS:** PINT, ELEC, TU, TRT, (KARATAS, SABAN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006